



NEWS RELEASE

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Man Pleads Guilty to Murdering Two Family Members, Sentenced

A 36-year-old man pleaded guilty today to fatally stabbing his sister-in-law and her daughter in their Canoga Park home during a bloody rampage and was sentenced to life in prison without the possibility of parole, the Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office announced.

Mario Estrada Ochoa pleaded guilty to the first-degree murders of Martha Camacho, 21, and her 6-year-old daughter, Valerie, on May 14, 2010. He also admitted the special circumstances of multiple murders and personally using a dangerous weapon, a knife.

He was immediately sentenced by Los Angeles County Superior Court Judge Ronald Coen to two consecutive terms of life in prison without the possibility of parole plus two years in case LA065484.

Deputy District Attorney Beth Silverman with the Major Crimes Division prosecuted the case.

In a statement read by his attorneys, Ochoa admitted stabbing both Martha and Valerie Camacho after getting into an argument with Martha over his marriage.

The prosecutor said Ochoa grabbed a knife and stabbed Martha 33 times. He dragged her body into her bedroom and attempted to stage the crime as a sexual assault.

When Valerie saw him covered in blood, she asked him what he had done, and attacked her. She was stabbed 14 times and nearly decapitated. He dumped her body behind a couch.

When he was arrested, Ochoa claimed his uncle, Manuel Carmona, was involved. Carmona was arrested and charged. Further investigation and DNA found there was no evidence connecting him to the murders and he was released and the charges dismissed.

The case was investigated by the Los Angeles Police Department.

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About the Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office

Los Angeles County District Attorney Jackie Lacey leads the largest local prosecutorial office in the nation. Her staff of nearly 1,000 attorneys, 300 investigators and 800 support staff members is dedicated to seeking justice for victims of crime and enhancing public safety. Last year, the [Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office](#) prosecuted more than 71,000 felony defendants and nearly 112,000 misdemeanor defendants.